

STATION BREAK / Faye Zuckerman

NBC looks at nation on the day JFK died

Through interviews and archival footage, NBC News at 10 examines the effects on American society of the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination of President Kennedy. Tom Brokaw anchors "JFK: That Day in November," which, an NBC spokesman says, will point out how the tragedy marked an "ending to a life that represented promise and optimism to an entire nation."

The hour, unavailable for review, will recall the early beginnings of the feminist movement and the promise of a 35-hour work week by labor in 1963. The optimism of the era was best illustrated by the hit television show that year, "The Beverly Hillbillies," which exemplified how anyone — even an un-aggressive backwoods family — could realize the American dream.

To shed further light on Mr. Kennedy's presidency and the changes America went through in 1963, NBC News airs interviews with historian Arthur Schlesinger Jr., The New York Times foreign correspondent David Halberstam, author Kurt Vonnegut and comedian Sid Caesar. Also recalling those halcyon days — before, says the NBC spokesman, "the vision of an omnipotent America began to fade" — are singer Chubby Checker, radio announcer Cousin Brucie, conductor Leonard Bernstein and TV personality David Frost.

Given the lineup of interviews, this hour documentary appears to be another don't-miss show remembering the 35th president.

Highlights

"Killer Instinct" (1988), NBC at 8 p.m.: The moral of this story is to always trust your instincts and stick by them no matter what happens. Unfortunately, the opposite occurs to hospital psychiatrist Dr. Lisa DeVito (Melissa Gilbert). Against her gut reaction she succumbs to pressure by her colleagues and boss to send a violent



Tom Brokaw

youth (Fernando Lopez) back onto the streets. In a fit of rage the disturbed teen-ager murders his boss.

How DeVito deals with her guilty feelings over releasing the youth prematurely, suspension from her job at a psychiatric hospital and trouble at home with her boyfriend because of her intense involvement in the case combine to become an insightful and compelling drama.

Miss Gilbert as DeVito and Woody Harrelson ("Cheers") as her co-worker perform well. It is Mr. Lopez, as the troubled youth, who steals the show with an affecting portrayal. The only problem here is that the movie fizzles near the end and culminates with a hard-to-believe, overacted hostage situation. Otherwise, this movie will not disappoint you.

"Garfield: His Nine Lives," CBS at 8 p.m.: America's lasagna-loving fat cat acts out his nine lives beginning with life as a cave cat and concluding with Garfield's version of an astronaut. The most interesting

of the nine lives are Garfield's seventh as a laboratory cat slated for eerie experiments and his second as an Egyptian king who has a pack of slave dogs. Look for Odie among the pack.

"War and Remembrance" (1988), ABC at 9 p.m.: In Part 6 of seven, the action follows Pug's (Robert Mitchum) visit to Russia, Natalie (Jane Seymour) and Aaron's (John Gielgud) surprise return to Paris, and the historic meeting between Winston Churchill (Robert Hardy) and Franklin Roosevelt (Ralph Bellamy) in Casablanca. (Part 7 airs at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday. The remaining 12 hours of Herman Wouk's "War and Remembrance" is scheduled for the spring.)

"Spies, Lies and Naked Thighs" (1988), CBS at 9 p.m.: Harry Anderson portrays a befuddled federal agent assigned to track down a notorious assassin in this comedic romp, unavailable for review. The only clues to the killer's identity are that the assassin is female and uses kitchen utensils as weapons. Ed Begley Jr., Linda Purl and Wendy Crewson co-star.

"Tonight," NBC at 11:30 p.m.: Ted Danson ("Cheers"), comedian Steven Wright and actor Nicholas Pryor.

"Late Night With David Letterman," NBC at 12:30 a.m.: Rock singer Phil Collins.

Cable calls

"JFK Assassination: As It Happened," A&E at 1:56 p.m. and "Kennedys Don't Cry," A&E at 9 p.m. and 1 a.m.: The cable channel will show the six-hours-plus coverage by NBC News of the assassination of Mr. Kennedy 25 years ago. It starts at 1:56 p.m. and ends at about 8 p.m., the exact time it all began and ended a quarter of a century ago.

Chet Huntley, Frank McGee, Bill Ryan and Robert MacNeil in Dallas take charge of the reporting. As you'll see, broadcasters' tools were archaic, but the journalists manage to transcend the equipment and deliver stupendous reporting.

At 9 p.m. and 1 a.m. is a repeat of a 1978 profile on the Kennedy family. Included are interviews with family members and their reactions to Mr. Kennedy's tragic death. © 1988 Faye Zuckerman

RADIO / Randall Bloomquist**25th anniversary of Kennedy slaying**

It has been said that television's coverage of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy 25 years ago today in Dallas brought that medium into its own. Be that as it may, radio is doing its bit to mark this tragic anniversary.

This day of commemorative programming begins at 9 a.m. with a special three-hour version of WAMU-FM's (88.5) "The Diane Rehm Show." The program, which will be heard live on 25 public radio stations, will devote its first hour to a discussion of Mr. Kennedy's influence on American society, while the second will focus on an examination of various conspiracy theories concerning his murder. The final "open-phones" hour will provide listeners a chance to share their remembrances of the late president.

At 1 p.m. WMAL-AM (630) offers a special ABC News radio documentary, "The Hour Kennedy Died." ABC correspondent Bob Walker, who was traveling with the president's motorcade on that fateful day, will host the broadcast.

Meanwhile, at 1:45 p.m., the time of Mr. Kennedy's death, all-new WTOP-AM (1500) will broadcast the youthful president's inaugural address.

Tonight at 10:30, WTOP will air a CBS News program tracing the four days from Mr. Kennedy's assassination to his funeral at Arlington National Cemetery. Dan Rather hosts the 30-minute broadcast, which will be followed by "The Larry King Show." Mr. King also will focus on the Kennedy assassination.

Tomorrow night at 8, WETA-FM (90.9) commemorates Mr. Kennedy's death with a concert by the Oratorio Society of Washington.

Hill is WMZQ's new weatherman

Meteorologist Gordon Barnes has parted ways with WMZQ-AM/FM (1390/98.7) after four years as the station's morning and afternoon weather personality. Mr. Barnes, who is best known in Washington as WUSA-TV's (Chan-

impossible for me to leave [the Channel 9 studios] at 11:30 p.m. and be at WMZQ at 4:30 a.m. I called in sick a few times and they found that unacceptable."

WKYS staff petitions for sale information

Late last month, 28 WKYS-FM (93.9) employees signed a petition urging NBC to be more forthright with them regarding the sale of the station, which has dragged on for more than a year. The protracted process of selling the urban music powerhouse has, in the petitioners' words, "subjected us to undue prolonged insecurity, low morale, and mental stress."

The petition, addressed to WKYS Vice President and General Manager Bartley Walsh, was signed by a cross section of on-air, sales, engineering and administrative employees, including Mr. WKYS, Donnie Simpson.

Two weeks after the employee petition was circulated, officials of NBC Radio and Albimar Communications, which has tentatively agreed to buy the station for some \$48 million, met with WKYS department heads to assure them the deal will be made final shortly.

But things could get more complicated before the fate of WKYS is

resolved. One group that lost to Albimar in the bidding for the station is considering legal action against NBC for giving Albimar what it believes is special consideration in the sale process. The prospective plaintiffs charge that NBC violated its own ground rules for the sale by accepting Albimar's bid although it knew the Boston-based group did not have its financing in place.

A decision on whether to file a suit could come as early as this week, said a source involved with the disgruntled bidder.

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